**Khutbah on the Four Approaches of Shaytan**

**By Khalil Moya**

Alhumdulillah, Alhumdulillahi Rabbil A’lamin. Alhumdulillah Who has given us another day of life and blessed us to be muslim.

Brothers and sisters in Islam, Insha Allah, the topic for todays khutbah will be about the four approaches of the Shaytan.

Allah has warned us about our number 1 enemy; and that is Shaytan.

\*\* Qaalallahu Ta A’la, fi Suratul Fatir, 35;6;

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَـنَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوّاً

Surely, Shaytan is an enemy to you, so take (treat) him as an enemy

إِنَّمَا يَدْعُو حِزْبَهُ لِيَكُونُواْ مِنْ أَصْحَـبِ السَّعِيرِ

He only invites his followers that they may become the dwellers of the blazing Fire.

\*\* The word Shaytan comes from the root word Shatana which means to be far away from something. Shaytan is far away from khayr (goodness) and far away from the mercy of Allah (swt).

\*\* Iblis comes from the root word balasa, which means despair, give up hope, become broken, perplexed, unable to see the right way or course.

Allah, because He is merciful, has told us abut Shaytan’s plan to mislead the children of Adam. Allah says in the Qur’an that the Shaytan said;

قَالَ فَبِمَآ أَغْوَيْتَنِى لأَقْعُدَنَّ لَهُمْ صِرَطَكَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

16. (Iblis) said: "Because You have `Aghwaytni', surely, I will sit in wait against them (human beings) on Your straight path.

ثُمَّ لآتِيَنَّهُم مِّن بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَـنِهِمْ وَعَن شَمَآئِلِهِمْ

17. "Then I will come to them from before them and behind them, from their right and from their left

وَلاَ تَجِدُ أَكْثَرَهُمْ شَـكِرِينَ

and You will not find most of them to be thankful.

Ibn Abbas (ra), the cousin of Prophet Muhammad, and the scholar of the Ummah of his time has explained the threat of the Shaytan.

**From the Front**

\*\* Ibn `Abbas commented on:

ثُمَّ لآتِيَنَّهُم مِّن بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ

Then I will come to them from before them

Ibn Abbas (ra) said this means raising doubts in them concerning their Hereafter.

Shaytan makes us heedless of the Hereafter. He makes it seem as if it is so far away. It seems like another place, another world.

\*\*Qaalallahu Ta A’la, fii Suratul Fatir, 35:5

يأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلاَ تَغُرَّنَّكُمُ الْحَيَوةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلاَ يَغُرَّنَّكُمْ بِاللَّهِ الْغَرُورُ

5. O mankind! Verily, the promise of Allah is true. So, let not this present life deceive you, and let not the chief deceiver deceive you about Allah

‘ O mankind! Verily, the promise of Allah is true.’ Meaning the Resurrection will undoubtedy come to pass.

Allah has warned us that Yawmul Qiyaama is the reality, and He has warned us not to let Shaytan make us heedless of this. Right now all of us are enjoying the life of this world; the Dunya. The Dunya is something that we can all see, hear, taste, feel. By comparison, the Hereafter is something that is in our heads, it’s an abstract idea. We can’t see, hear, or touch it, and because of this, the Shaytan makes us forget about it. Shaytan makes us careless about preparing for it.

Allah has warned us about this attitude in the Qur’an.

\*\* Qaalallahu Ta A’la, fii Suratul Qiyaamah, 75:

كَلاَّ بَلْ تُحِبُّونَ الْعَاجِلَةَ - وَتَذَرُونَ الاٌّخِرَةَ

But no! Rather you love the present life of this world. And neglect the Hereafter

\*\* Imam Ahmad has related, ‘An Abu Musa Al-Ash’ari (ra) Qaal: Qaala Rasullulah (pbuh):

مَنْ أَحَبَّ دُنْيَاهُ أَضَرَّ بِآخِرَتِهِ، وَمَنْ أَحَبَّ آخِرَتَهُ أَضَرَّ بِدُنْيَاهُ، فَآثِرُوا مَا يَبْقَى عَلَى مَا يَفْنَى

Imam Ahmad recorded from Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari that the Messenger of Allah said, “Whoever loves his worldly life, will suffer in his Hereafter, and whoever loves his Hereafter, will suffer in his worldly life. Therefore, choose that which is **everlasting** over that which is **temporary**.”

**From the Back**

وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ

and (from) behind them), making them more eager for this life,

“When Iblees comes to you from the back, he will cause you to have hope in the dunya (worldly life). Dunya comes from the word adnaa which has two meanings: something close and also something debased and low.”

\*\* Abdullah ibn Mas’ud (ra) said, ‘This Dunyaa is only taken as a home by those who will have no **real** home in Jannah, and it is the wealth of those who will have no **real** wealth, and it is gathered and collected by those who have no **real** intelligence.’

\*\*Imams Ahmad, At-Tirmidhi, and Ibn Majah and Al-Hakim have all recorded, The Messenger of Allah described the importance that **he** placed on this temporary life when he said,

“Maalii wad-dunyaa! In-namaa mathalii wa mathalud-dunyaa: Kamathali raakibin qaala fii Thil-li shajaratin, thumma raaha wa tarakaha.”

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said, “What have I to do with this life? The example (parable) of me and this life is the example (parable) of a rider who rested in the shade of a tree and then departed.”

\*\*Al-Hasan Al Basri (raa) said about this life, “I am amazed at those who were ordered to take provisions (fear from Allah) and were told that the journey will begin soon (to the Hereafter), yet they play.”

Shaytan makes us busy collecting the provisions for this dunya that is almost over! And the end result is that we’ll go into the Hereafter having packed too lightly.

**From the Right**

وَعَنْ أَيْمَـنِهِمْ

from their right), causing them confusion in the religion,

Ibn Abbas continues to say that the attack from the right is to cause people to have doubt in regards to their religion, to make problems in the religion, and to give you a hard time and cause you to question the religion.

This attack from the right will also be an attack on our good deeds.

\*\* 'Abdu'l-Ral:iman Ibn Ziyad Ibn An'um said: 'While [Prophet] Musa (as) was in a gathering Iblis came wearing a burnoose (a hooded cape) that changed in colors. When the devil came

nearer he took off the cape and set it down and came to Musa saying: 'Peace be upon you. Musa replied: 'Who are you?' He said: 'I am Iblis. ' Musa responded: 'No greetings from Allah

to you, what brought you here?'

The devil said: 'I came to greet you because of your high status with Allah. Musa said: 'What have I seen you wearing?' Iblis replied: 'I use it (the cape) to capture the hearts of the sons of Adam.' Musa asked: 'What is it, that if a human does, will **enable you to take him over?**' He replied: 'When he **becomes pleased** with himself, and regards his deeds as **too many**, and **forgets his sins.'**

The Shaytan continued and said, ‘I warn you from three things: **First**, never be alone with a woman that is not lawful to you. Because whenever someone does so, I personally accompany him and use her to seduce him.

**Second**, never promise Allah something except that you fulfill your promise. Whenever

someone promises Allah something, I personally accompany him to prevent him from fulfilling his promise.

And **third**, never take an amount of money to give charity except that you make sure you give it to that charity. Whenever someone takes an amount of money to give to charity, I personally accompany him to persuade him not to give it.

Then Iblis walked away saying: 'Woe to me, thrice, I have taught [Prophet] Musa from what to warn the sons of Adam.'

**From the Left**

وَعَن شَمَآئِلِهِمْ

and from their left,

Ibn Abbas said this means luring them to commit sins.'' This is meant to cover all paths of good and evil. Shaytan discourages the people from the path of good and lures them to the path of evil.

\*\* Qaalallahu Ta A’la, fi Suratul Baqarah, 2:168;

وَلاَ تَتَّبِعُواْ خُطُوَتِ الشَّيْطَـنِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ

and follow not the footsteps of Shaytan (Satan). Verily, he is to you an open enemy

إِنَّمَا يَأْمُرُكُم بِالسُّوء وَالْفَحْشَآء وَأَن تَقُولُواْ عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لاَ تَعْلَمُونَ

He (Satan) commands you only what is evil and Fahsha' (sinful), and that you should say about Allah what you know not.

Brothers and Sisters in Islam, realize that the Shaytan’s main mission in life is to derail us from Siratal Mustaqeem.

**The Roll Call of Shaytan**

\*\* Abu Musa Al-Ash'arI (radi-Allahu anhu) said: 'Every morning, Iblis dispatches his soldiers saying: 'Whoever of you mislead a Muslim then I will make him wear the crown.' One devil

responds: 'I continued to persuade so and so until he **divorced** his wife.' Iblis replies: '(fhis is not significant) He will eventually remarry. ' Another devil says: 'I continued to persuade so

and so until he **disobeyed his parents**.' Iblis replies: 'He will eventually become dutiful to his parents.' A third devil says: 'I continued to persuade so and so until he **fornicated**.' lblis says:

'You are the one.' The Shaytan asks another devil, What about you? He answers him, ‘I stayed with so and so, until he **drank the wine**. Another devil says: 'I continued to persuade so and so until he **committed murder**.' Iblis says: 'You are the one, you are the one.'

Brothers and sisters, we need to be aware of the attacks of this enemy, who will stop at nothing to try to get us to join him in the Hellfire.

I ask Allah to give us clear vision, so that we can see the enemy coming at us. And I ask Allah to help us against the attack of the Shaytan.

**أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ لِي وَلَكُم**

Alhumdulillahi Rabbil Alamin, was salaatu wa salaamu ala Muhammad, wa ali alihi, wa ashabihi, ajamiin, ama’baad.

\*\* Ibn Kathir has related in his tafsir; `Ikrimah narrated from Ibn `Abbas concerning the Ayah,

ثُمَّ لآتِيَنَّهُم مِّن بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَـنِهِمْ وَعَن شَمَآئِلِهِمْ

Then I will come to them from before them and behind them, from their right and from their left,)

"He (the Shaytan) did not say that he will come from above them, because **the mercy** descends from above.''

Brothers and Sisters in Islam, it is from the mercy of Allah that He blessed us with Islam. It is from the mercy of Allah that He blessed us with the knowledge about this enemy that we cannot even see.

And it is from the mercy of Allah that He has left the doorway back to the mercy of our Creator open for us.

All of us commit sins, and all of us fall for the traps of the Shaytan from time to time. Our Creator is well aware of this and He has revealed to us what we should do when we oppress ourselves by committing the sins.

\*\* Allah describes the believers in Suratul Al Imran, (3:135-136)

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُواْ فَـحِشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُواْ أَنْفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُواْ اللَّهَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُواْ لِذُنُوبِهِمْ

“And those who, when they have committed Fahishah or wronged themselves with evil, remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their sins,”

\*\* Anas bin Malik (ra) said, "I was told that when this Ayah, was revealed, Iblis (Shayatan) cried.” And Shaytan hates it for us if we ask Allah for forgiveness because he knows that Allah is ever ready to forgive us.

I ask Allah to make us from those who always turn to Allah with repentence and I ask Allah to always forgive us.

Brothers and Sisters in Islam, realize that we can’t fight the Shaytan all by ourselves. In order to fight the Shaytan, and overcome his plots and schemes, we need to call upon our Creator.

\*\* One of the Salaf asked his student: 'What do you do when the devil whispers to you?' He replied: 'I fight him back.' The teacher asked: 'What if he returns?' He replied: 'I fight him.' The teacher asked again: 'What if he returns?' The student repeated again: 'I fight him.' The teacher said: **'This will take too long.**

Do you see if you try to pass by some sheep and the shepherd's dog barks at you to prevent you from passing, what would you do?' He replied: 'I would struggle to fight and repel him.' The teacher replied: **'This would take too long**. Instead, **seek the assistance of the sheep's owner**, he would suffice you from him . '

Brothers and sisters, Allah is the Creator and the Owner of everything, including us and the Shaytan, so seek His help against this enemy of ours. And Allah is all we need.

\*\* Brothers and Sisters, our Islam is the most valuable thing that we have, and this is why the Shaytan works so hard to derail us from it.

Allah reminds us about the true value of our Islam, of being muslim in this life.

Allah sayd in Surah Al ‘Araf that when the people enter Paradise, may Allah make us from them, they will realize their **greatest blessing** is Islam. They will say;

وَقَالُواْ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِى هَدَانَا لِهَـذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِىَ لَوْلا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ

and they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah, Who has **guided us to this**, and never could we have found guidance, were it not that Allah had **guided us**!

I ask Allah to help us to benefit from what we have heard here today.

#### And I ask Allah to turn to us with Forgiveness and Mercy on the day that we meet Him, and to exchange our places in Hellfire, for places in Jannah.

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّآ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

رَبَّنَآ ءَاتِنَا فِى الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الاٌّخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

رَبَّنَا لاَ تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْوَهَّابُ

Allahuma’ Eghfir Lil’ Muslimeena wal Muslimat, Wal Moumineena wal Mouminaat, Al-Ahya’ee minhum wal amwat, Innaka samee’un mujibul dawat

Inna Llaha wal malaikatahu yassalluna ala nabi, Ya ayuhaladhina amanu, sallu alaihi wa sallimu taslima.

Allahumma salli ala Muhammad, wa ala alli Muhammad, kama sallaita ala Ibrahima, wa ala ali Ibrahima

Allhuma barak ala Muhammad, wa ala ali Muhammad, kama barakta ala Ibrahima, wa ala ali Ibrahima, fil alamina innaka hamidun majid